

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

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R 151515Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
TO AMEMBASSY PARIS
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 965

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KINSHASA 10472

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CG, FR, PFOR, PINR
SUBJECT: NEW ZAIRIAN AMBASSADOR TO FRANCE

1. ZAIRE'S NEW AMBASSADOR TO FRANCE, CITIZEN BOKONGA EKANGA BOTOMBELE, IS IN HIS FIRST WEEK OF DIPLOMATIC SERVICE IN PARIS. PRIOR TO THIS ASSIGNMENT, BOKONGA SERVED IN A NUMBER OF IMPORTANT DOMESTIC LEADERSHIP POSITIONS, AMONG WHICH WERE MINISTER OF LABOR (1976), MINISTER OF NATIONAL ORIENTATION (1975), AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (JULY 1971-JANUARY 1975).
2. AMBASSADOR BOKONGA IS 44 YEARS OF AGE, MARRIED TO A BELGIAN, AND HAS AT LEAST TWO CHILDREN, WHOM HE HAS EDUCATED IN SWITZERLAND. OVER THE YEARS, HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH THE US EMBASSY IN KINSHASA HAS BEEN WARM AND CORDIAL. IN 1973, BOKONGA ENJOYED A VERY SUCCESSFUL MONTH-LONG VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES AS A PARTICIPANT IN THE INTERNATIONAL VISITORS PROGRAM.
3. BOKONGA APPEARS TO HAVE THE CONFIDENCE OF PRESIDENT MOBUTU, WITH WHOM HE HAS BEEN ASSOCIATED SINCE THE EARLY 1960'S. WITH FAMILY ROOTS IN BAS ZAIRE AND EQUATEUR, BOKONGA IS WELL PLACED AND THOROUGHLY UNDERSTANDS THE WORKINGS OF ZAIRIAN POLITICS. WE EXPECT THAT HE WILL BE A STRONG AMBASSADOR FOR ZAIRE IN PARIS.
4. WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY FURTHER IMPRESSIONS OF BOKONGA WHICH EMBASSY PARIS DEVELOPS IN COURSE OF HIS TERM THERE.
CUTLER

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Message Attributes

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To: PARIS
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